

Message Text

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AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 7695

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, BR

SUBJECT: US-BRAZIL SHRIMP AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 206756 STATE 217220

1. REFTELS REQUESTED EMBASSY'S EVALUATION OF GOB THINKING REGARDING SHRIMP FISHING ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1975 AND OF GOB REACTION TO POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING PRESENT AGREEMENT. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS AT OPERATING LEVEL, IN CONTACTS DURING WEEKS FOLLOWING SIX MONTH EXTENSION AGREED IN JUNE, COMMENTED THAT MOST LIKELY ARRANGEMENT FOR 1975 WOULD BE A FURTHER EXTENSION OF EXISTING AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, THEY NOTED THAT QUESTION HAD NOT BEEN ADDRESSED AT GOB POLICY LEVELS. SINCE END OF CARACAS LOS MEETING, THESE OFFICIALS HAVE NOT OFFERED COMMENT, ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, ON FUTURE SHRIMPING ARRANGEMENT.

2. WHEN CONGEN RIO APPROACHED GOB FISHING AGENCY, SUDEPE, REGARDING OREGON II RESEARCH PROPOSAL (STATE 208583), DIRECTOR SOLANCY MOURA VOLUNTEERED INFORMATION THAT TWO SUDEPE TECHNICIANS HAD BEEN DETAILED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY ON SEPTEMBER 24. THEY INDICATED THAT TECHNICIANS WERE TO WORK ON NEW AGREEMENT, ADDING THAT THERE WOULD BE NO MORE EXTENSIONS, ONLY A "NEW" AGREEMENT.

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3. WITHOUT APPROACHING OFFICIALS IN FOREIGN MINISTRY

OR NAVY, WE CANNOT BE CERTAIN THAT ABOVE VIEWS OF SUDEPE OFFICIALS REPRESENT AN AGREED GOB POSITION, SINCE SUDEPE HAS NEVER FAVORED EXISTING ARRANGEMENT. WHEN US-BRAZIL AGREEMENT WAS NEGOTIATED IN 1972, SUDEPE OPPOSED SOME OF THE FINAL PROVISIONS, PARTICULARLY ARTICLE V, AND PROBABLY REMAINS OPPOSED. OCCASIONALLY EMBASSY HEARS REPORTS THAT SOME ELEMENTS IN BRAZILIAN NAVY ARE OPPOSED TO ANY KIND OF CONTINUED SHRIMP AGREEMENT WITH THE US. WHILE WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS IS GOB POSITION, SUCH VIEWS WOULD INFLUENCE GOVERNMENT TOWARD DECISION TO NEGOTIATE NEW AGREEMENT MORE ADVANTAGEOUS FOR BRAZIL. GOB COULD SEE OUR LOS POSITION ON 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE AND CONGRESSIONAL INITIATIVE FOR 200 MILE FISHERY AS STRENGTHENING THEIR BARGAINING POSITION. ALSO, BILATERAL FRICTIONS INVOLVING IMPOSITION OF COUNTERVAILING DUTIES ON IMPORTS OF BRAZILIAN SHOES AND CURRENT CASE OF DETENTION OF AMERICAN CITIZEN BY GOB SECURITY FORCES HEIGHTEN POSSIBILITY THAT GOB WILL BE RIGID AND DEMANDING REGARDING SHRIMP AGREEMENT.

4. WE BELIEVE PRINCIPAL GOB OBJECTINS TO PRESENT AGREEMENT CONCERN NUMERICAL LIMITS ON US BOATS WHICH THEY VIEW AS ALLOWING VIRTUAL UNRESTRICTED OPERATIONS IN FISHERY, LACK OF GOB AUTHORITY OVER IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENT, AND LIMITED SUCCESS TO DATE IN DEVELOPING A NATIONAL SHRIMPING INDUSTRY. FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE DEMANDS WE MIGHT EXPECT FROM BRAZILIAN SIDE DURING RENEGOTIATION OF AGREEMENT:

- REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF US BOATS FROM CURRENT 325 BOAT OVERALL LIMIT AND 160 OPERATING AT ANY ONE TIME;
- REDUCTION IN SIZE OF AGREEMENT AREA TO ALLOW LARGER AREA FOR UNREGULATED BRAZILIAN OPERATIONS AND PROVIDE INCENTIVE FOR FOREIGN PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL INDUSTRY;
- REQUIREMENT THAT CERTAIN NUMBER OF US VESSELS OPEATE OUT OF BRAZILIAN PORTS;
- INSISTENCE THAT SHRIMP IS "CREATURE OF THE SHELF" USING US ACTION ON LOBSTER AS PRECEDENT;
- REGISTRATION AND ISSUANCE OF PERMITS BY GOB AUTHORITY OR REQUIRMENT FOR GOB APPROVAL BEFORE BOATS CAN ENTER FISHERY (THIS LATTER REQUIREMENT COULD ALREADY BE ASSERTED UNDER PARA 3, ARTICLE IV OF THE AGREEMENT);

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- CLOSER MONITORING OF AGREEMENT, E.G., ADVANCE INFORMATION ON DATES OF ARRIVAL IN FISHING ZONE AND DATES OF DEPARTURE, MORE TIMELY SUBMISSION OF LOGBOOKS, SUBMISSION OF LOGBOOKS TO GOB CONSULAR REPRESENTATIVE AT FIRST PORT AFTER DEPARTING FISHERY;
- REQUIREMENTS TO ASSIST DEVELOPMENT OF BRAZILIAN FISH-ING INDUSTRY ALONG LINES ENVISAGED UNDER ARTICLE VIII OF PRESENT AGREEMENT.

CRIMMINS

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